

that funds may come from some source to set up still a fourth solar station.

The Smithsonian Institution has no intention of making public forecasts. That is the province of the Weather Bureau. But it is hard to see why an honest effort to test the value of hitherto unused data for forecasting purposes should receive anything but kindness from meteorologists.

Yours faithfully,

C. G. ABBOT,
Acting Secretary

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
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TERTIARY GLACIATION IN WYOMING, COLORADO AND UTAH¹

SINCE 1914 the origin of erratic boulders up to twenty feet long on Green Mountain and elsewhere in Central Wyoming, at altitudes of about 8,500 feet, had been an unsolved problem until June, 1925, when definite evidence was found of glacial deposits of mid-Tertiary age. A fresh grade on the state highway five miles west of Alcova, Wyoming, exposed good glacial débris with boulders exhibiting excellent striations and scoured faces. This débris definitely occurs beneath the White River formation, classed as Oligocene. Elsewhere in the Sweetwater Valley the glacial boulders rest on Eocene formations.

The glacier leaving these big erratic rocks originated on the Wind River Mountains and extended at least 125 miles toward Casper.

Definite glacial débris nearly 1,000 feet thick on Diamond Peak, Colorado, and Uinta quartzite boulders twenty feet long, showing grooved flat faces, on Aspen Mountain, Wyoming, prove the glacial origin of the Bishop conglomerate, which is older than the Brown's Park and younger than the Green River formations. The Bishop occurs all around the Uinta Mountains.

The smoothed outcrops of the pre-Cambrian granite near Encampment, Wyoming, and boulder beds beneath the North Park formation at Walcott indicate mid-Tertiary glaciation off the Medicine Bow Range.

Large boulders with peculiarly flattened faces, as if ice-scoured, at the bottom of the Castle Rock conglomerate and on Green Mountain are thought to be traces of the same glacial epoch in the Denver Basin.

The possibility of the Kingsbury conglomerate and other singular boulder deposits in the Rocky Mountains being a phase of this glaciation is recognized, which when carefully studied will perhaps prove extensions of the discovery of an important epoch of glaciation in post-Eocene and pre-Miocene time, and

¹ Preliminary communication.

if certain beds are Oligocene, then it is also pre-Oligocene.

C. J. HARES

CASPER, WYOMING

AN OBVIOUS NEW CASE OF POLYEMBRYONY

MORPHOLOGISTS in general are so greatly interested in polyembryony that all new cases should be advertised.

In the August, 1925, number of the *Journal of Economic Entomology*, Mr. S. J. Snow, of the Bureau of Entomology, in an article entitled "Observations on the cutworm, *Euxoa auxiliaris* Grote, and its principal parasites," records the rearing of an encyrtid parasite of this cutworm which is, very obviously, polyembryonic, since from 1,068 to 1,511 individuals were reared from a single cutworm.

The species is *Berecynthus bakeri* Howard. The observation is not surprising, since this parasite is related to the *Copidosoma* originally studied by Marchal, although it has a very different *facies*.

Incidentally, attention should be called to J. Waterston's paper entitled "A new polyembryonic encyrtid, *Copidosoma tortricis*, a parasite of *Tortrix comariana*," published in the *Annals of Applied Biology* for September, 1922.

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THE "HARMLESS" CORAL SNAKE

ERROR as well as truth has the faculty of repeated rising after frequent crushing. Certain misinformation has such capacity for harm that the task of the cynic becomes indistinguishable from that of the philanthropist and at the reappearance of the hoary falsehood of the harmless coral snake it becomes meet, right and our bounden duty to do all that in us lies to blast it as publicly as possible.

Some twenty-five years ago Kipling wrote "Rhinegold and the German Flag," a story of a collector in Venezuela who, misled by the published statement of an American authority, thought nothing of being bitten by a coral snake and so died. His last bitter words as he felt his arm and realized his position might serve as a text. "It is genumben to der claviele. I am a dead man, and Yates he haf lied in print."

In Newman's recent "Vertebrate Zoology," on page 257, there is the following statement: "The coral snakes are said to be extremely poisonous, but their biting apparatus is so constructed that they can not open the mouth wide enough to bite a human being so that they may be set aside as harmless, so far as man is concerned."